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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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11-18-1927

## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 46)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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## Justice (Vol. 9, Iss. 46)

### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteous-  
ness I hold fast,  
and will not let  
it go."  
—Job 27:6

# JUSTICE

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

"Workers  
of the world  
unite! You  
have nothing to  
lose but your  
chains."

Vol. IX. No. 46.

NEW YORK, N. Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1927

PRICE 3 CENTS

## Debs Station Broadcasts Talks On I. L. G. W. U.

Miss Elsie Gluck Speaks to Air Audi-  
ence on Role of Union—Series  
of Talks Planned

The I. L. G. W. U.—its history, aims, and policies—has been on the "air" in the past three weeks, thanks to the cooperation and courtesy given Miss Elsie Gluck of the International staff by the directors of the Debs Radio Station, better known as the WEVD, located at 3 W. 16th Street.

Miss Gluck has already given three talks on the ladies' garment workers' organization to the big and steadily growing audience of the WEVD, and is now expected to augment her afternoon talks, aimed principally to reach the wives and families of wage earners, with a series of evening talks designed to reach the head of the family in addition to the women folk.

The evening series, consisting of six talks, will be run off as follows: 1. The general aim of the I. L. G. W. U.; 2. Comparison of pre-union and present conditions; 3. The relationship between the organized and unorganized sections of the industry and of the workers; 4. The present problems of the union and the union's program; 5. The International as a social institution; 6. The broader aims of the International and of Labor.

## President Sigman Reports Labor Massing Support of Striking Miners

Attends Big Conference of International Unions in Pittsburgh on  
Behalf of Striking Soft-Coal Miners—750,000 Coal Diggers  
in Great Eight Months' Strike Prepare to Dig In for a Winter's  
Struggle—Indomitable Courage of Strikers Fires Labor  
Movement.

President Morris Sigman returned this Tuesday from Pittsburgh, where he attended the national conference of all heads of international unions and of the most important state and central bodies of the country summoned by the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to organize aid for the 150,000 striking soft coal miners.

Particularly the call for the conference, which was signed by President William Green, stressed the bitter struggle of the miners in Central Pennsylvania with the Pittsburgh Coal Company, which succeeded in evicting its striking miners from the company-owned huts they had occupied for years, and which also obtained a drastic injunction against the miners' union actually forbidding the strike on account of its interference with "the interstate commerce" carried on by the company.

President Sigman declared upon his return that the conference, which was attended by more than 500 heads of labor organizations, would undoubtedly find the necessary financial means to tide the fighting miners over a hard period that is facing them during the coming winter, if the strike should have to be prolonged. "Out of the 150,000 strikers in more than seven months, facing the fire of the 3,000 company gunmen, being shot at and assaulted at the least provocation, not more than a puny hundred

## New York Dressmakers Prepare For Tradewide Union Campaign

Meeting of Executives of Four Dress Locals in New York  
Plans for Widespread Organizing Work To Be  
Soon—President Sigman Pledges Aid of Inter-  
Drive—Disrupters Still Try to Create Mischief in  
Shops But Their Influence Is Nearly Gone

Last Thursday, November 10, a joint meeting of the executive boards of Locals 22, 89, 35 and 10 took place at the auditorium of the International Building, 3 West 16th Street, to take up the question of continued organizing activity in the New York dress trade.

General Manager Julius Hochman, in an introductory talk, told the executive board members of the locals in the dress trade of the importance of keeping constantly after the unorganized shops and ceaselessly endeavoring to enroll the workers employed in them into the union. Since the Communists were dislodged from office, the dress division of the Joint Board, he told the delegates, with the aid of the dress locals, has been hammering away, with signal success, at the non-

union shops; and it intends to keep after them without a letup.

"Don't forget," Hochman continued, "that at the time when we started to go after the non-union shops in earnest the outlook was far from encouraging. We had to contend not only against the manufacturers, but in an equal measure against the Communist charlatans and demagogues, and against the spirit of apathy, demoralization and indifference which their rule has left behind it everywhere in the trade. We have overcome these obstacles, as every loyal member of the union knows, in a

(Continued on Page 2)

## Three Weeks Left To Unity Dance

Monday evening, December 10, Ball-  
room, Manhattan Opera House

The Unity House Re-  
ception is drawing near, and ev-  
erything is getting ready for this eve-  
ning which is just three weeks off.

Arrangements Committee, is  
at neither time nor effort to make  
an artistic and social success. It  
will be a demonstration for Unity, in  
which I. L. G. W. U. members and  
their friends, members of other inter-  
national unions, and guests of Unity House  
will take part. In a word, all those  
will be there to whom the ideal for  
which Unity stands is dear, and who  
helped make Unity House this year a  
greater success than ever before. The  
actors, artists and musicians who en-  
tertained at Unity, the lecturers who  
conducted the discussions and the  
house staff and management who  
contributed so much to the pleasure of  
the vacationist will also be there.

A feature of the evening will be  
the stimulating dance music of the  
Paul Whiteman Piccadilly Players.

Secure tickets now at the Educa-  
tional Department, 3 West 16th Street.  
Tickets are \$1.00, including wardrobe.

## 'Impartials' Import Tammany 'Peace Angel' To Save Union

Mecca Temple Meeting Audience Leaves Disappointed—Tam-  
many Hall "Peace-Maker" Busy Pacifying "Impartials" On  
and Off Stage—Enemies Attack International and Call Pres.  
Sigman Harsh Names

Last Monday night, November 14,  
a meeting at Mecca Temple, boomed  
weeks in advance in the Communist  
and Jewish Tammany press by its  
"impartial" sponsors, finally was  
carried through, though not exactly in  
accordance with prior plans and ex-  
pectations.

At the Mecca Temple meeting, ac-  
cording to nicely laid out plans, the  
"impartials" were to have brought  
forth a new Messiah to save the

cloakmakers' union. His identity, for  
a long time, the "impartials" and their  
Communist allies wouldn't reveal. It  
was a mystery that would be disclosed  
to the brazen eyes of the populace  
only on the night of the Mecca  
likely, accounted for the attendance  
of a number of workers who ordi-  
narily would not have paid any at-  
tention to a meeting arranged by "neu-  
tral" Communist sympathizers.

It was, of course, impossible to as-  
certain who the good, bad or indif-  
ferent folks who came to the meeting  
were. In this respect the "impartials"  
were laudably impartial inasmuch as  
they admitted anyone who came to sit  
in judgment on the cloakmakers'  
union and its leaders—dressmakers,  
men's tailors, furriers, jewelers, brick-  
layers, blacksmiths, insurance agents,  
petty manufacturers, real estate  
agents, and sundry other proletarians.  
No union card of any sort was asked;

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## Tuckers' Local 41 Renews Trade Agreement With Wage Raises

First Step of Reorganized Local Received With Satisfaction by  
Members

A well-attended meeting of mem-  
bers of the Tuckers', Hemstitchers',  
Platers' and Novelty Workers' Union,  
Local 41, on Monday evening, Novem-  
ber 14, ratified the new agreement for  
the year 1928 reached with the manu-  
facturers' association in the trade.

General Secretary Abraham Baroff  
and Vice-president Harry Greenberg,  
who negotiated the contract with the  
employers, read clause after clause  
of the new pact, and provoked a  
hearty applause when it became  
known that the agreement not only  
contained all former work conditions,  
but carried a raise in the minimum  
scales of a substantial portion of the  
workers. As might have been ex-  
pected, a few Communists present  
tried to seek out flaws in the new  
contract, but failed completely. To be  
sure, they didn't even vote against the

adoption of the contract, so over-  
whelmingly was the sentiment in fa-  
vor of it at the meeting.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Boston Chairmen Meetings Seeth With Union Planning

Equal Division of Work Enforced in Shops—Board of Sanitary  
Control Will Maintain Utmost Cleanliness in Trade.

The Boston cloakmakers and dress-  
makers have recently embarked on a  
new period of activity. They appar-  
ently mean business. They want to  
make their union count in the local  
market, and they are going about it  
in the right way.

The Boston Joint Board has now ar-  
ranged to have, as frequently as it

can be done, shop chairmen's meet-  
ings, at which shop reports would be  
exchanged, and the active men and  
women from the factories might make  
suggestions to each other regarding  
the best ways and means of keeping  
up best union control of work con-  
ditions in them. The first meeting of

(Continued from page 3)

## N.Y. Dressmakers Prepare for Tradewide Union Campaign

(Continued from Page 1)  
splendid manner, and we are now ready for more and even bigger work. The foundation for a great 100-percent organized dress industry must be laid right now, and no one can tell me that we shall fail. Failure is an unknown term in our vocabulary."

The score of executive board members who followed Brother Hochman spoke in a similar vein, offering suggestions and recommendations for more effective organizing work. All were of the opinion that, as soon as the dress season starts, a trade-wide campaign be launched to organize as many shops as possible. There is sufficient material already at hand among the members, it was pointed out, to make such a drive a success. There is a desire manifest everywhere to help build the union, and this spirit of cooperation and self-help should be utilized to the limit.

President Morris Sigman, who came to the meeting, delivered an optimistic talk that lent spirit and aggressiveness to the gathering. "The dressmakers, I know," said President Sigman, "have come to the conclusion that they want to have a strong union. Nothing less than that will satisfy them. There has been loose talk and irresponsibility in the dress shops in the past few years. That is why in these years the number of non-union shops has kept growing in the trade. There is enough vitality, ability, and love for organization among those who are fighting today the union's battle in the dress trade to insure the success of any drive, and I am confident that, with the aid of the International, a campaign undertaken next season, at the opportune moment, would yield results and start the union on the way to com-

### TUCKERS' LOCAL 41 RENEWS AGREEMENT WITH WAGE RAISES

(Continued from Page 1)

Vice-president Greenberg, who is acting as provisional supervisor of Local 41, assured furthermore the members of the tuckers' organization that this agreement will be a living instrument that will be enforced by the union in all the shops, rather than a dead letter as the old agreement has been under the rule of the Communist-controlled officials. The new agreement enters into force at once, and the workers entitled to raises under it will receive same by the end of the current week.

The minimum scales of the contract, as revised, now stand as follows:

Tuckers, \$50 per week; pleaters, \$45; pleaters' help, \$30; hemstitchers' raise from \$28 to \$30; novelty stitchers, from \$28 to \$30. Such workers as already receive such minima will get an additional raise of \$2.

plete control of work conditions in the whole industry."

### Communist Clique Starts Rumor Jobbers' Association Liquidated

While the dressmakers' organizations in the New York market are preparing to sweep the trade clean of obstacles that prevent the dress workers to make a fair and decent living, the Communist clique that is still operating under a fake name of a "dressmakers' union" has issued a statement in the Communist press that the Wholesale Dress Manufacturers' Association, the organization of dress jobbers, which has an agreement with the International Joint Board, is out of existence. This rumor naturally was spread with the intention of injuring the union in the eyes of the workers. This lie, however, did not live long, as it was quickly nailed to the board by officers of that employers' association, who by letter, signed by Mr. Alfred Lyons, general manager, informed General Manager Hochman of the Joint Board that this rumor, "spread by a foreign language paper, was absolutely false; the association intends to continue its relationship with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union pursuant to the agreement made in February of this year and there will be no changes of any kind."

## Pres. Sigman Tells of Great Conference To Aid Mine Strikers

(Continued from Page 1)

Flanders during the war, yet the line holds, and no coal is being mined.

"It is an epic struggle of real men, of proletarian fighters the kind of which the labor movement is proud. How glad we should have been to help these fighters if only our condition permitted! Mind you, too, these men have helped us in the past without stint or hesitation. You recall how readily the miners came to our assistance when we were in dire need. It is our sacred duty to give to these valiant comrades of ours of our last, to share with them the final crumb."

President Sigman concluded by saying that he was certain that the American trade unions which are financially better situated will see this great struggle of the miners through; not only will they help them financially, but they will combine all their resources to fight the injunction abuse by capitalist-favoring judges so flagrantly shown in the Pittsburgh Coal Company struggle. The trade unions of America won't rest until the workers regain a condition of equality in the courts, until their rights to strike and to picket peacefully are not questioned or challenged by the fiat or whim of a judge."

## "Impartials" Import Tammany "Peace Angel" To Save Union

(Continued from Page 1)

the committee in charge was too happy to admit anyone in sight to fill up the empty benches.

### A Tammany Angel Appeals

When the meeting finally got under way, and the curiosity of the audience had been raised to the highest pitch, the chairman of the meeting, a certain Mr. Shally, at one time a member of Local 2, introduced a gentleman whose name he said was Dr. I. Sirowich. This information, however, gave the audience but little light on the identity of the great personality who was to star at the gathering. Some men shrugged their shoulders, others shook their heads dubiously, but no one seemed to realize the importance of the man of mystery on the platform.

Soon, however, the secret was given out. It was no more and no less than Dr. Sirowich, Tammany Hall congressman from the 14th district, a shining light in the councils of the wigwam, for the moment turned savior and peace ambassador on behalf of the Communist-tainted "impartials." With the aid of this Mr. Sirowich, the meeting, after several attempts, succeeded in adopting a resolution which called upon the A. F. of L. to help this motley gathering to unseat the administration of the I. L. G. W. U. The meeting came to an end after an attempt to circulate the resolution among the audience failed.

Thus the plans of the "impartial" engineers fell through with a whoop. The resolution which was printed in English on a card, was handed out before the meeting to all who entered the hall. Mr. Shally, the chairman, made a brave attempt to translate it into Yiddish, but instead of translating it attempted to "fix" it to the mood of the Communist audience. The translation, however, wouldn't dovetail with the original, as the original called on the A. F. of L. to take over the organization from those "who had usurped it just as it was taken from the Communists." That, naturally, in direct language stated that the Communist did capture the union at one time, and it certainly did not please the mass of the Communists in

the hall who protested vehemently. Mr. Shally tried to correct the "blunder" by adding the words "as asserted," but this correction met with little favor from the Communists. The meeting threatened to end in an uproar when Dr. Sirowich, who seemed to be running the whole show for Mr. Shally and his associates, jumped into the fray and forced a vote on a motion to adopt the resolution as trimmed down.

The following comment was issued from the office of the I. L. G. W. U. to the press with regard to this meeting:

"The so-called 'Committee of 50,' created by Communists and near Communists to establish 'peace' in the union after the Communist ouster last December, has now enlisted forces of reaction in an effort to regain a foothold in the union. Their peace efforts having proved a fiasco, they have now adopted the slogan of 'Sigman Must Go,' seeking to create the impression that President Sigman, and not the chaotic conditions of the industry due to its highly seasonal nature, is responsible for the evils accentuated by the irresponsible strike conducted by the Communists in 1926 from which we have not fully recovered.

"The newest recruits to the Communist adventure include disgruntled former job-holders in the union, who, until recently, were characterized by the Communists themselves as 'knife heroes' and 'betrayers of the working class.' Among these recruits are a former Vice-president of the International, Meyer Perlstein, who was forced by the membership several years ago to resign because of his reactionary activities; John A. Dyche, a sponged-cloth manufacturer, formerly secretary-treasurer of the International, who since his ouster 13 years ago, has not failed to offer encouragement to cloak and dress manufacturers in time of strike; a millionaire builder whose name cannot be revealed for the present, and other strange bed-fellows of the Communists.

"This motley assortment of enemies of the International have no program, no constructive suggestions to make at a time when all our efforts are directed toward restoring our membership to a decent state of living, when by hard work and scientific method we seek to eliminate once and for all the industrial evils that beset our industry.

"This latest maneuver, like all others, is bound to fail. The workers are not deceived and we know the public, when acquainted with the facts, will not fall victim to the latest assaults upon our union from the combined forces of Communism and reaction."

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## Among the Dressmakers, Loc. 22

By J. SPIELMAN, Secretary  
Our local held a well-attended meeting last Monday, the 14th of November, at Beethoven Hall, 210 East 5th Street.

The question of proportional representation conventions, was widely and intelligently discussed from the floor of many members. Vice-presidents Greenberg and Hochman, representing the General Executive Board, led the discussion, emphasizing at the same time, the advisability of accepting the majority report.

It would seem that even those who were in favor of the acceptance of the majority report, felt that it does not carry a full measure of proportional representation. They maintained, nevertheless, that under the present circumstances, the proposed change would eliminate many of the evils complained of. Those who agitated for the minority report, however, contended that if a change was found necessary in the form of representation, there is no reason why we should not go the full length of the project and settle it fully and satisfactorily.

The result of the balloting shows that the majority of those present, were in favor of the minority proposition and so local No. 22 goes on record as having favored a more radical form of representation at the conventions. On the question as to where the next convention shall be held, the meeting voted by a large plurality in favor of the Unity House, as against Philadelphia or Boston.

Following the balloting on the referendums, the meeting proceeded to nominate local officers, and executive board and relief committee members. Within the near future the candidates will be properly announced so that the members may have the full opportunity to get acquainted with them before the time arrives for casting their votes. It is our sincere wish and hope, that the members at large will show a sufficient interest in the local elections, and actively participate in the choice of the men and women who will constitute the future administration of the Dressmakers' Union. It is the Executive Board delegates who are, in the final analysis, the direct representatives of the union's mem-

bers, and it is they who should reflect the sentiment and wishes of these members.

As stated in one of our former reports, the future administration of the dressmakers will, no doubt, be faced with a tremendous responsibility as regards the organization of the dress trade and unless the members at large, will be careful in their choice and elect the most fitted representatives, we may not be able to accomplish the ends we seek. From now on, therefore, we are looking forward to a more intensified activity, a renewal of union acquaintanceship and union loyalty.

In spite of the nominations and elections, and the fact that the trade is almost at a standstill, the organization is nevertheless conducting a number of strikes and stoppages, which serves as a splendid indication of its energy and vitality. One of the strikes which the dress department is now conducting is waged against the firm of Banjo Dress Company, 491 Seventh Avenue. While in contractual relations with our Union, this firm has also maintained an open shop on a lower floor in the same building. The firm was given due notice that it cannot operate on a fifty-fifty basis, and upon its refusal to meet the terms of the Union, a strike was declared. The shop, which is in business agent's Schechter's district, is being actively picketed, and the strikers, who are composed of a lively group of men and women, are in good spirits and determined to win.

A meeting, which in point of interest and importance, supercedes all kinds of referendums and nominations, took place last Thursday evening, November 16, in the auditorium of the International building. This was a joint meeting composed of the executive boards of Locals 10, 22, 35, and 89. President Sigman, General Manager Hochman, and the officials of the locals concerned, were present. The question discussed was the present condition in the dress industry and the steps that the organization must take to remedy it. That was the only topic of discussion and the exchange of opinion will, no doubt, help

## Toronto Cloak Workers Prepare For Strike Next Season

The cloakmakers' organization of Toronto has, for the past several months, been busy repairing its weak spots, organizing open shops, and laying the ground for a general move that would bring work conditions in the local industry under the full control of the union.

A week ago, the Toronto Joint Board summoned a meeting of all its local executive boards, and this meeting unanimously decided in favor of calling a general strike in the trade before the arrival of the spring season. The spring season in the Toronto cloak

shops is the better of the two annual seasons, and the workers are expected to be in a stronger position for the conflict.

Immediately after the meeting, the Joint Board issued a call to the workers to straighten out their indebtedness to the organization. The response from the workers to this call for a stronger union treasury was very encouraging. The Toronto cloakmakers obviously mean business this time. They will gain their objective if they show that they can stick to their purpose and won't be misled by vagary or demagoguery.

## Big Local Meetings Vote On Two Referendums

### Local 35 Elects Officers

A number of International locals in New York City, at big member meetings held during the past week, voted on the two questions submitted to them by the G. E. B.: Proportional representation, and a convention city for the next convention of the I. L. G. W. U. in May, 1928.

The question of proportional representation, which has agitated the Union for a number of years, will soon be settled after the vote of the entire membership is tabulated and counted in the General Office. Last week's vote would seem to indicate

that the plan recommended by the Philadelphia convention would go through, and that Boston would be the choice of the majority of the members as convention city next spring.

Locals 22, 9 and 23 cast their vote for the Philadelphia plan, while Local 2 voted for complete proportional representation. Local 2 also voted against Boston as convention city, while the other locals seemed to favor Boston.

Local 35, the big pressers' local, also elected this Monday a complete set of officers for the coming year. 1079 votes were cast. Jos. Breslaw was elected manager of the local by 877 votes, and Louis Haff was chosen chairman by 632 votes. The following were elected as business agents: M. Goldovsky, 725 votes; J. Vassilevsky, 709 votes; L. Bezahell, 682 votes; Harry Dorfman, 623 votes, and N. Schechter, by 548 votes.

shape the future course of the Dressmakers Union. No definite decision was reached, but the plan proposed consists of some very drastic measures, which, when put into effect, must bring results.

This is the first of a series of similar meetings, which will be held in the immediate future for an exchange of views on this very vital subject, which concerns the very existence of our Union. The Executive Board of Local No. 22 has continued the discussion on this question at its last meeting and before long, the members of the Union will have a full opportunity of stating their views before any definite action is decided upon.

The Relief Committee of our local has, at its last few meetings, considered a number of serious cases. We have, for example, an application for relief from a member who is suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and who is in urgent need of financial assistance. It unfortunately happens that this brother has completely neglected to pay his dues and Relief Fund Assessment until the day before he left for Liberty. Quite naturally, the Relief Committee has a legal right to turn the application down. Yet it felt a moral obligation towards a worker in a shop who, though he failed in his duties to the Union, is nevertheless entitled to consideration at the hands of his co-workers. A substantial donation has been made to this brother, which will, no doubt, do much to restore him to good health

so that he may continue to support his family.

Of course, regardless of how liberal the committee may be with this brother, who by the way, is one of the workers of the K. & T. Dress Company, he can never expect the full amount of benefit which would be due him had he regularly paid his dues and assessments to the Union. It is for this reason that the members are urged to change their Union cards and see that their dues and assessments are paid up.

The Relief Fund functions for the benefit of the members of the Union. Hundreds of dollars were paid out in the last few months to workers who, because of one or another form of illness, have been obliged to stay away from the shop. We claim that it is not fair to expect the fund to pay benefit to any person who has not paid the Relief Assessment, or even to those who have paid it in bulk immediately preceding their application for relief, and the Relief Committee has no intention of paying such claims.

## Boston Chairman Meeting Full of Life

(Continued from Page 1)

this kind was held on Tuesday, October 25, and a second meeting of shop chairmen and active workers was called for this Tuesday, November 15.

The meeting, three weeks ago, was presided over by Sol Polakoff, International organizer, at present stationed in Boston, who outlined the purpose of the meeting. A lively discussion by a large number of the shop heads present followed, and several ways and means were advanced to strengthen the position of the union in all the shops.

The meeting also took up the sanitary conditions in the shops, and decided to boost the "Prosanis" label in the local market. Dr. Parmenter, one of the representatives of the public on the Boston Sanitary Control Board,

who came to the meeting, declared that, though introduced as an "impartial" member of the board, he was quite partial where the health of the public and the workers was concerned.

Miss Unscum, the director of the Sanitary Board, also spoke, and told of the many meetings with women consumers held under the auspices of the Sanitary Board, at which the "Prosanis" label, as a means of safeguarding the health of the public and of the workers in the shops, was stressed. The women were urged to buy garments bearing only such sanitary labels. Miss Unscum expressed the hope that very soon all the department stores in Boston would handle only garments bearing the "Prosanis" label.

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## JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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# JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly

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Office: 3 West 16th Street, New York, N. Y. Tel. Chelsea 2148

MORRIS SIGMAN, President A. BAROFF, Secretary-Treasurer  
MAX D. DANISH, Editor

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## EDITORIALS

### THE FIRST STEP

Ninety-nine out of every hundred cloakmakers one meets today—in the shops, at meetings, at the impromptu noon-hour gatherings on the corners in the shop districts—agree on one thing:

The kernel of all evil in the cloak industry is the petty, irresponsible contractor shop—hundreds upon hundreds of them sprouting out like mushrooms in the beginning of each season and dying out like swamp mosquitoes in its end—shops that are encouraged by jobbers and part-jobbers solely with the object of cutting still deeper into labor costs, of bringing down still lower the already far too meagre earnings of the cloakmakers during incredibly short work-seasons.

And there is another thing nearly all cloakmakers agree on. There will be no relief in sight, no hope for material improvement of the lot of the workers, until this petty-shop pestilence is checked and brought under control, until it is either driven or legislated out of the industry, until the majority of cloakmakers will work not in fly-by-night places misnamed as shops, but will find employment in larger, more stable, better organized and managed production units, where labor costs for the same grade of product are as nearly equalized as possible, and whose owners don't have to depend for their existence on their ability to squeeze out a few additional pennies from the pitiful earnings of workers forced to seek work in their shops.

The big shop—outside or inside—therefore, is the major cure for the chaos, misery and disorganization of the cloak industry. The big shop must be brought back, is heard on all sides—the cloak trade was not born in petty, irresponsible shoplets, and must not be allowed to degenerate and die in such sweat holes. Even the jobbers are beginning to realize that the process of splitting up production into dribblets has done the industry no good, and that pretty soon they might find themselves in serious trouble. Already some of them have felt the results of this misguided policy during the past couple of seasons, and the prospects of another season with similar results look to them pretty dismal.

But what shall the first step in the direction of getting back the bigger shop be, and who will or should make that step? Surely, we cannot hope for any initiative from the employers. In the eighteen years of dealing with employers in the cloak industry, we can't recall a single instance of constructive achievement for the industry in which the employers had taken the initiative. They aren't built that way, that's the answer.

The first step will have to be made, as in the past, by the Union. It is the worker's foot that is pinched the hardest. It is the workers' organization that will have to point the way out of the wilderness in which the cloak industry finds itself walled in at the present day.

The General Executive Board of the International has given this subject ample consideration at its last meeting. And while the G. E. B. has not decided on one preferred mode of action, the gist of its opinion is expressed in a series of articles on this matter from the pen of President Sigman, which are now appearing in "Justice," which, besides, offer a clear economic and historic background to the rise of the small contractor shop in the cloak industry. President Sigman, in his articles, presents several practical suggestions, which he invites the members of the International to discuss as broadly as they would in our press.

Briefly, the proposal suggested by President Sigman is as follows:

The malady of the cloak industry is the petty, cut-throat competition shop. The jobber has found it in the past to his advantage to encourage the growth of a limitless number of shops, because in each new shop he had hoped to get his work done cheaper. In other words, the chaos in the industry consists in the existence of hundreds upon hundreds of shops with varying labor costs for similar garments, each vying with the other for the jobber's order, each ready to cut each other's neck in order to obtain the elusive "bundle."

The proposal of President Sigman would abolish this chaos in labor and production costs by the organization of an industry-wide "control and adjustment committee" that would equalize, fix and adjust labor and other production costs in—

the New York cloak industry and would do away with the competition of worker against worker. This commission, representing every organized group in the industry, would have the power and the authority to do it. It may sound like a tremendous task, but no one can say that it is an impossible one. Besides, we must make up our mind that only a heroic, a thorough-going effort can now put this badly disjointed trade on a sound and stable basis. And that brings us back to another point which President Sigman advances in his articles, but which, in our opinion, contains the crux of the whole problem.

The control and adjustment committee, once established, the suggestion is made further, the Union should renew at once the demand for "limitation of contractors." Our members recall, no doubt, that this contractor limitation demand, one of the set of demands for which the International has contended for two years before the late Governor's Commission, was subsequently granted by the Commission to the cloakmakers early in 1926, but was sidetracked and abandoned by the Communists then in control of the New York Joint Board. We don't hesitate to assert today, as we believed at that time, that the limitation of contractors was the most important and most constructive gain won through the Commission. It was a measure that aimed directly at the main evil of the industry—the petty, uncontrollable shop—which two years ago has plagued our workers just as much as it plagues them today. There is little doubt that limitation of contractors, if adopted in the cloak trade two years ago, would have achieved a great deal by this time in the direction of eliminating the small, illegitimate contractor shop.

But, while the Communist-controlled officials, now banished and disowned by the cloakmakers, did sabotage the contractor-limitation relief granted by the Governor's Commission, the cloakmakers surely never had consented to its abandonment. Not only should the request for contractor-limitation be renewed after a "committee for control and adjustment" is formed and begins to operate, but it should, in our opinion, be made a parallel issue together with the request for such a wage control committee. For, not only does this contractor-limitation plan give additional strength and substance to the request for a control and adjustment committee, but it already has back of it the support and the sanction of an important body of public opinion. It bears the stamp of approval by a group of citizens who for two years have worked hard and earnestly to understand and solve some of the intricate workings of New York's biggest and richest single industry, an industry which fails, at the same time, to provide its workers with the means of even a modest livelihood.

Contractor-limitation is, in its nature, a potent means for the return of the bigger shop, for the abolition of vicious, dishonest competition, and for the leveling up of production standards and conditions in the trade. No time should be lost in pressing it for realization in the cloak industry.

We want a thorough discussion of these suggestions by the members of the International, by New York cloakmakers especially, and we shall give as much space for such an exchange of opinion as needed. We also ask our members to contribute ideas and suggestions of their own to the answer to the question: What shall be done to bring the bigger shop back into the cloak industry?

As we stated already, there is no copyright or patent on any plan or suggestion contained in President Sigman's articles. Any thought, idea, or plan, honestly conceived and properly expressed, will be a contribution to this very important discussion. What we know, what all members of the International know, is that our main industry, the cloak industry, is deathly sick today, that it must be dragged out of its abnormal, unwholesome state. The sooner we get to the task, the faster we think about the ways and means for rehabilitating it, the greater is the chance for restoring the cloak industry to decency and normalcy.

### THE NEW CLEVELAND AGREEMENT

The news from Cleveland that the Joint Board of that city renewed its agreement with the manufacturers' association for another year on substantially the same terms, save for one point that is to be arbitrated by the Board of Referees, is good news. It attests once more to the stability of the Cleveland ladies' garment workers' organization and to its fine influence in the shops.

The Cleveland workers have had a solid union in their trade for several years past. That's why the Cleveland garment workers are a factor in the industry; that's why they don't have to depend on strikes to renew their agreements with the manufacturers. The Cleveland workers, in an overwhelming majority, are trade unionists in their trade union, first, last and all the time. They never succumbed to the effort of charlatans to convert their union into a tall to a political kite.

The employers in Cleveland know this. The employers in Cleveland know that the Cleveland cloakmakers are good union men, good fighters, ready to defend their standards of work and living. Such knowledge breeds wholesome respect and a desire to avoid a fight. We congratulate the Cleveland cloakmakers on the peaceful renewal of their agreement.



## An Abnormal Industry

(THIRD ARTICLE)

From the previous two articles the causes that brought into being the jobbing-sub-manufacturing system in the cloak industry and the suffering and tribulations endured by all the factors engaged in the production of cloaks, become apparent. The workers suffer most from the splitting up of the shops. That actually undermines their very existence and brings them to a condition of continual want and fear of the coming day. It is, therefore, natural that the organization of the workers—the union—should be the first to seek means to abolish this evil and to restore the industry to its normal standing.

The past few years mark several attempts by the union to check the further breaking up of the cloak shops. Experience has taught us that the long practised means of periodic strikes for increases in wages, a shorter work day and other improvements in the agreements, do not alleviate the workers' sufferings. We have learned that strikes should be used only as a last resort in the face of no other alternative, and that as long as shops continue to be split up, all the improvements gained these many years will only remain on paper because it will be impossible for the union to control the working conditions in the increasing number of small shops. The competition, want and unemployment will force the cloakmakers to work under inferior conditions secretly, without the knowledge of the union. In order really to improve the workers' lives, the system of production will have to be radically changed. A stop will have to be made to the further spread of the small sub-manufacturing shops and as far as possible decrease the number of such shops already in the trade.

### What Have We Done in This Direction?

In 1923 the General Executive Board of our International formulated an industrial program which aimed to check this evil. The most important demand contained in that program was the limitation of sub-manufacturers to be employed by a jobber, to be gauged by the amount of his work throughout the previous year. Its purpose was twofold: First, to make the jobber more responsible for the working conditions of the workers in the outside shops, and secondly, to decrease the number of small shops, for there is no doubt that these small shops ruin the trade and make the lives of the workers uncertain and unbearable. The cloakmakers are very well aware of this, for they feel it day in and day out.

What happened in the three years following the announcement of the union's program is more or less known to everyone who had any connection whatsoever with our labor movement. If, however, due to the ignominious state which existed in our union, it was forgotten, I will recall it briefly to your minds.

Governor Smith intervened at that time and appointed an advisory commission of earnest and upright men, who brought about a temporary understanding between the union and the employers. They also engaged experts who made a thorough study of the cloak industry in all its details, especially of the conditions of the workers in the industry. Their report confirmed the union's contentions concerning the demoralizing effect of the jobbing-sub-manufacturing system on the industry in general and especially on the living conditions of the workers. The experts of the commission proved with facts and figures

### Past Attempts to Improve Trade—Big Shops the Goal—Communist Obstacles and Others—The Luckless Strike of 1926—What Now?

By MORRIS SIGMAN

the loss of tens of millions of dollars yearly in the industry through the unnatural splitting up of the shops. They disclosed that the worker suffers from chronic unemployment and want. On the basis of this report, the commission recommended that the employers should concede the most important demands of the union. The recommendations included the limitation of sub-manufacturers, equal division of work among the sub-manufacturing shops in proportion to the number of workers they employ, the sending out of work only to permanent shops that are registered in the industry, no work to be sent out to other shops unless those registered by the jobber are busy; also an increase in the wage scales.

If the recommendations of the Governor's Commission, especially that of limitation of sub-manufacturers, would have been accepted and carried out (and they could have been) the cloak industry today would have been on the road to recovery. The cloakmakers would have saved 26 weeks of great suffering and losses thru the general strike, the industry would have freed itself by this time of a large number of sub-manufacturing shops which ruin it, and the union would have had complete control of the working conditions in the industry. Unfortunately in 1926, when the Governor's Commission submitted these recommendations, the leaders of the union were only tools in the hands of a Communist political clique which did not have the interests of the workers at heart. The conditions of the cloakmakers and the industry, from which they derive their living, did not worry these politicians. The thing uppermost in their minds was how to increase the prestige of their party. They played in politics while endangering the bread and very lives of tens of thousands of workers, and in this way gambled away a wonderful opportunity to save the industry.

I had no desire to revert to the dark days of Communist rule in our union. I will only, therefore, mention the following:

It was essential for Communist politics to plunge the cloakmakers into a general strike under all circumstances. In normal times, Communist politicians could never influence persons who work to earn their shops. The Communist phrases appeal only to minds that are upset and distressed from suffering. Fatigued and tired people are easy prey to demagogues. The Communist politicians, therefore, ordered their agents in the Cloakmakers Union—and the strike was called. Due to their provocations the strike became almost unavoidable.

Due also to the same Communist politics the strike became principally directed against the inside manufacturers instead of the jobbers. Not being capable of conducting an effective fight, they followed the line of least resistance to obtain at least a fake victory. The result was that the sub-manufacturing shops, settled and unsettled, made up the work for the jobbers, who were very little inconvenienced by the strike. On the contrary, because of the fact that the inside shops were paralyzed due to the strike, the jobbers received orders and made enormous profits.

After sixteen weeks of strike the

Communist under-cover men in the strike committees, with aid of such "friends of labor" as Arnold Rothstein and R. Sadowsky, finally settled with the Industrial Council, losing the most important points of the recommendations of the Governor's Commission, which could have been won without a strike. The limitation of contractors, which aimed at checking the growth of the small shops, was entirely lost to the union. The jobbers, who control about 75 per cent of the trade, had no desire to settle. The union stood in danger of losing even concessions won in previous years.

The International, however, was successful in assuming charge of the situation and in settling with the jobbers and sub-manufacturers. Thru this we were able to save the union and what was left of the working conditions gained years ago. The goal, however, to which we aimed—the limitation of contractors—was lost, and became a far distant thing. As a result the number of sub-manufacturers became a far and distant thing. In addition the number of sub-manufacturers became greater due to the criminal mismanagement of the strike. The strike offered an opportunity to hundreds of new sub-manufacturers to come into the market and naturally the larger their number, the smaller became the shops, the greater the demoralization, the harder to control and the conditions of the workers deteriorate.

In order to limit the number of irresponsible small shops in the industry, the union sought, by every means, to definitely establish the meaning of a regulation shop. A plan was suggested that a boss must supply work for at least fourteen machines, let us say, with fourteen operators and a corresponding complement of workers of the other branches of the trade. The union made numerous investigations in this connection, agitated, conferred with the employers

and asked the jobbers not to send any work to shops other than those recognized by the union.

From this it can be seen that our program of limitation was a vast one and covered everything—limiting the number of shops in the industry by decreasing the number of irresponsible shops already existing in the trade; limiting the number of small contractors that can come in at the present time and create irresponsible shops; limiting the number of sub-manufacturers to whom the jobber can send his work.

Why have we expended so much of our time and energy on this point? And so we return to this point and are convinced that the greatest hope of the cloakmaker lies in the large shops.

Large shops mean principally inside shops; at any rate, responsible shops.

Today the conditions of the workers in the cloak industry are bad. The ceaseless pressure of competition between employer and employer, shop and shop and also worker and worker, which was greatly increased due to the bad season immediately following the prolonged general strike, weakened their power of resistance to a large degree. The shops are so split up that the worker cannot fight anyone directly. The worker does not come in contact with the jobber, and the owner of the small sub-manufacturing shops is helpless and has no say in the industry.

What, then, under the present circumstances can be done?

Is the situation absolutely helpless? Yes, there is something to be done—and quite a bit at that. The condition is not altogether beyond remedy.

We have gone thru a dark period because we were misled and fooled by the Communists. But that period is past.

What then, can be done to bring into the industry large, responsible shops? What shall our first step be in this direction? What activity should be pursued?

I will talk about this in my next article.

(To be continued)

## German Clothing and Textile Workers Win Wage Raises

500,000 Workers Will Benefit by Arbitration Award

The conflict between the textile workers' union and the employers' associations in the textile industry in Germany came to an end last week, after the workers voted to abide by an arbitration award which gave them a raise of six to twelve percent on their present earnings. The dispute involved nearly 500,000 employees.

In Chemnitz, where a strike of 340,000 workers was expected, the government intervened with an offer to arbitrate the dispute, and after a careful survey of the situation and a thorough examination of the workers' demands recommended an increase in wages.

The clothing workers of Barmen,

30,000 strong, who for a time were threatened with a lockout that would have probably involved the entire textile industry, accepted a wage raise of 6 percent, while the Munich trimming and ribbon workers, 32,000 in number, got an increase of 12 per cent.

The clothing workers of the Rhineland and in Aux La-Chapelle were awarded a raise of 6½ per cent. The lace and embroidery workers of Plauen, 16,000 of them, who were also threatened by a lockout, accepted a settlement of 7½ per cent.

It is reported that between 40 and 50 thousands clothing and textile workers in Eleberfeld are on strike. The workers are confident of a victory.

### DANCE AND SOCIABLE IN THE I.L.G.W.U. AUDITORIUM BY WHITE GOODS LOCAL

Saturday Evening December 3, 1927

The Educational Department is arranging a dance and sociable for a group of members of the Whitegoods Workers' Union Local 62, to take place in the auditorium at 3 West 16th Street.

There will be excellent music, dancing, and refreshments.

Admission will be by ticket only. A further announcement will appear in next week's Justice.

DAVID J. SAPOSS will lecture on the FRENCH LABOR MOVEMENT Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m. in the I. L. G. W. U. building, 3 West 16th Street. Julius Hochman, vice-president of the I. L. G. W. U. will preside. Admission free.

A. J. MUSTE, of Brookwood Labor College will start a course of ten lessons on THE WORKERS IN MODERN CIVILIZATION on Saturday, November 26, 1:30 p.m. in the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street. Admission free to I. L. G. W. U. members.



## EDUCATIONAL COMMENT AND NOTES



### Workers Education Aims at Power

Encouraging Ideals That Will Win

By FANNIA M. COHN

WORKERS' education, like the labor movement itself, to be most effective must develop naturally. Inevitably its development will be influenced by general economic conditions, since these act upon the lives of the workers engaged in education. Thus, the conditions of the country, whether they be those of mythical "prosperity" or of actual cyclical unemployment will be reflected in the classroom discussions. The classes in economics, in particular, will consider the position in which the workers—that is to say, the particular group carrying on the discussion—find themselves. In addition to these economic conditions, however, a great many other factors will act upon the contents of a workers' college curriculum—such as the economic, social, cultural, emotional and racial background of the group in the numerical majority in the college.

But if workers' education follows along the lines of natural development only, it will lack a single central idea, for its development will vary from place to place, from group to group. I should like to emphasize a workers' education curriculum—we realize that education must be flexible, experimental, and reflective of the interests of the groups involved. Nevertheless, to have a distinctive character, and to serve the labor movement and progress as a whole, workers' education must have a central ideology, to act as a unifying force bringing together the workers of our whole continent.

Such an ideology would include a number of things—the workers' desire for power to enable them to function as an organized group on the economic, political, social and intellectual fields; the workers' desire for a voice in the management of industry, since it affects not only the industrialists, but the workers in the industry and the public as a whole. It would include, too, their desire that our vast natural resources be placed at the disposal of our entire population. And it would almost certainly include their feeling that they should have a voice in shaping our international policy, since it affects the lives and happiness of hundreds of millions of men, women, and children. An ideology of this type would naturally not rest upon temporary conditions, nor be too much affected by prosper-

ity or depression.

To develop a set of ideals of this character, the labor movement will have to create machinery sufficiently efficient to bring into such a social program, based as it is, not on personal habits but ideals. This machinery might well include a political labor party, but that labor party will have to be brought into being by a great many independent forces. It cannot be born until the workers as an organized group develop a desire for power—power to enable them to direct their own lives and achieve the ultimate aims that will advance the progress of humanity. So long as the program of the labor movement consists of the temporary every day needs of the workers alone—though, of course, these needs must always be its main impulse—so long the workers will feel no need for independent political action.

The present difference of the millions of American workers and the present state of the labor movement are thus easily understandable to students of the American labor movement and American history.

#### Encouragement.

But there is encouragement in the scores of men and women, active officers and members of the rank and file of trade unions who feel the need for an ideal, for an inspiration for forward movement. They realize that if the millions of unorganized workers in our basic industries are to be attracted to the trade unions, then the millions already in them must be more inspired by it, more ready to make sacrifices for its further development.

They realize that in the post-war period industrialism in our country has adjusted itself to the new world conditions brought into being, in large part, by the Great War. They know it has perfected its managerial machinery, become more efficient, changed its front—become, in other words, the new management. They know it absorbs most of the vigorous talent our universities turn out, and supports our schools of commerce and business more actively than ever before. They know it expects its recruits to management to be posted not only on mathematics so that they can make advance calculations of the firm's profits, but prepared in the social sciences and particularly in psychology. Big business has come to realize the value of a knowledge of the human mind and what influences human behavior and the actions of men.

(Concluded next week)

### DAVID J. SAPOSS WILL LECTURE ON THE FRENCH LABOR MOVEMENT

Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m., in the  
I. L. G. W. U. Auditorium,  
3 West 16th Street.

The French Labor Movement will be discussed by David J. Sapoos this Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m., in the I. L. G. W. U. Auditorium at 3 West 16th Street. Julius Hochman, Vice-president of our International, will preside.

While it seems to us that we know something about the English and German labor movements, we know hardly anything about the French. Perhaps no labor movement has experienced such fundamental changes

### Weekly Educational Calendar

I. L. G. W. U. BUILDING, 3 West 16th Street

Saturday, November 19, 1937

2 P. M. David J. Sapoos—The French Labor Movement.  
Julius Hochman will preside.

WASHINGTON IRVING HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM 530

Saturday, November 26, 1937

1:30 P. M. A. J. Muste—The Worker in Modern Society—  
a course of ten lessons to be continued weekly.

Sunday, November 27, 1937

11 A. M. Dr. N. B. Fagin—Contemporary American Literature—  
a course of four lessons.

Dr. H. J. Carman will give a course on "The Rise of American Civilization" based on the book by Charles and Mary Beard. Time and place will be announced later.

**DON'T FORGET the Unity House Reunion Dance, Saturday,  
December 10, Manhattan Opera House, Ballroom.**

### The Worker in Modern Civilization

A Course of Ten Lectures to be Given  
in Our Workers' University, Saturdays,  
1:30 p.m., Beginning  
November 26.

A. J. Muste of Brookwood Labor College will start a course of 10 lessons on "The Worker in Modern Civilization," on Saturday, November 26, 1:30 p.m., in the Washington Irving High School, Room 530. The topics of his lectures are as follows:

1. The Machine and the Worker: Gains, losses, possibilities for the future arising from the introduction of the machine, standardization, specialization, mass production, etc.

2. The City and the Worker: The status and psychology of the worker who is "free," lives in a city, goes to school, dresses in the same way as people of other groups.

3. The Union and the Worker: Reason for the rise of trade unionism, its development in various countries, the relative place of conflict and co-operation in industry, etc.

4. The Worker Out of Work: Why about it? Is it a permanent feature of our industrial system?

5. Chances a Worker Takes: Accident, sickness, occupational disease, who should "insure" the worker? Are workers becoming capitalists? What is the significance of labor banking, co-operative enterprises, etc.?

6. Education and the Worker: What can be accomplished by education; education vs. propaganda; function of workers' education.

7. The Worker and His Vote: How and why the suffrage was achieved, types and aims of political activity, voting in a new social order.

8. The Workers' Day in Court: Equality before the law, status of trade unionism, injunctions and the defense against them.

9. The Unorganized Workers: Do they prove that the labor movement is no longer needed? Are company unions a challenge to unionism or the last word in unionism?

10. Imperialism—The Next War and the Workers.

#### CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE

A Course of Four Lectures to be Given at the I. L. G. W. U. Building,  
3 West 16th Street, Beginning  
Sunday, November 27, 11 a.m.

Dr. N. Bryllion Fagin of the University of Baltimore, will begin a course of four lectures on "Contemporary American Literature," Sunday, November 27, 11 a.m., in the Washington Irving High School, Room 530.

This will be a study of the principal tendencies in contemporary American Literature. Especial stress will be laid upon the social forces underlying the changes in the current American novel and drama.

Dr. Fagin will take up the following:

1. The American Novel: A survey of contemporary tendencies: the novel of social revolt, the novel of social satire, the aesthetic novel, the "stream of consciousness novel"; the popular novel.

2. The American Short Story: The short story as a form of art; the short story as a reflection of contemporary thought; the short story as an article of commerce; the future of the short story.

3. American Drama: The stage and the literary play; the "little theater" and its influence; Eugene O'Neill; Kaufman, Connolly, Kelly; the younger group of American playwrights.

4. American Poetry: The free verse movement, naturalistic poetry; the zig-zag of form and substance; the return to old patterns; the age of minor lyricism.

#### THESE TEN YEARS

Five Lectures by Morris Hillquit

The time has come for taking stock of the epoch-making decade which began with the revolution in Russia and Germany and the ending of the Great War. This Mr. Hillquit plans to do under the following heads:

1. The End of the War: the Revival of Nationalism: World Revolution and World Reaction.

2. The Crisis of Democracy: Bolshevik Dictatorship and Fascist Dictatorship.

3. New Forms of Class Struggle, Political and Economic.

4. The Awakening of the East: Russia and Asia.

5. The League of Nations and the New Imperialism.

The lectures are given in the Rand School Auditorium on Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., November 22 to December 23.



## The Recent Rebellion In Mexico

By M. P. S.

The so-called Gomez-Serrano rebellion of October 2nd, a mere mutiny of part of the Mexican federal army, has been completely crushed by the energy of President Calles and his administration.

The incident was the outcome of differences which began last spring with the appearance of three contestants for the coming presidential period in Mexico, elections for which take place in 1928, two of them the Generals Gomez and Serrano, well-known military leaders and speakers for the anti-re-electionist movement, the third, the immensely popular General Obregon, former president of Mexico, against whom the anti-re-electionist opposition was mainly directed.

The political fight began with pronounced impetus and quickly led to great excitement among the Mexican people. Anti-re-election candidates spoke openly about revolution and declared that they would take up arms against the Federal Government in case the votes when cast were not in their favor. But even before the campaign could be said to have gotten well under way, it was amply apparent to everyone and to the leaders as well, that the popular vote was not in their favor—not so much because of their principles as because of their doubtful personalities and their general unpopularity with the great masses of the Mexican people. Both then decided to appeal to force. A military uprising throughout the Republic, planned months before, was timed for the above-mentioned date. It was directed against the Constitutional Government of President Calles because both anti-re-electionist candidates claimed that the Calles Government was supposedly helping the other side and supporting the candidacy of Obregon.

### Erred in Judgment

The two rebel leaders and their followers were guilty of at least two grave and highly important errors in judgment: They forgot about the vast change which has taken place in Mexico during the last few years and the entirely changed criterion of the Mexican public toward military rebellions and the political activities of military leaders; they also underestimated greatly the efficiency and energy of the Calles Government. These two facts are mainly responsible for the speedy termination of the rebellion.

It must not be forgotten that President Calles has publicly declared that he had full knowledge of the activities of the disloyal leaders, full details of the attempted assault long before it broke and that he permitted it to come to full fruition so as to avoid giving the rebels justified reason to claim that the constitutional Government of which he is head had taken prejudicial action against them. The real reason back of President Calles' determination to refrain from crushing such a coup d'etat of military leaders before it started, however, lay in his utter confidence in the support of the peasant and worker masses of Mexico—a trust which the outcome of the rebellion has shown was not misplaced. That General Calles also had clearly measured the psychological change which is coming about in the ranks of the army of Mexico—which confidence he voiced publicly just a few days before the crisis—was borne out as well when the test came and the rank and file led out in rebellion from their barracks under false pretenses, returned in large numbers of their own volition when they sensed what was happening.

### Swift Action

Special military manoeuvres in the nature of a fiesta had been planned

and took place in one of the enormous outfields of Mexico City on the evening of October 2. After they were over, it was learned that certain companies did not return to their barracks but, assuming an anti-Government attitude, sought a menacing position and, knowing that a large part of the city garrison would remain loyal to the Government, left town to join the rebellious forces in the states of Puebla and Vera Cruz. During the same night (October 2nd), the Government learned that both presidential candidates—Generals Gomez and Serrano—had left town forty-eight hours before the uprising, that Gomez had taken up arms in the state of Vera Cruz, where his following was strong due to his long service in that sector as Chief of Military Operations, and that General Serrano, was prepared to take over the troops in the state of Morelos and to lead them against the Federal Government. It was also learned that the attitude of rebellion assumed by troops stationed at Torreon, Coahuila, menaced the strategic position of the central Government and that the position of some of the other states was doubtful.

The Government acted swiftly. Loyal troops from Mexico City were ordered to pursue the marching rebels under General Almada. Loyal troops in the neighborhood of Torreon were ordered to attack the rebels in Torreon who, after three hours battle, were disarmed and Torreon once more placed under control of forces loyal to the Federal Government. Rebellious officers were court-martialed, condemned to death on the score of high treason and summarily executed. The Government's next move was against General Serrano, who was arrested by loyal troops in Cuernavaca, brought before a military court and with thirteen intimate friends and associates accompanying him, was condemned and executed on October 3. A few days later the joint rebel forces of Gomez and Almada were beaten by loyal troops and the greater part brought back to Mexico City as prisoners.

Public opinion, even liberal opinion, outside of Mexico, has dwelt upon the "cruel brutality" with which the Calles Government has dealt with the rebels, but one must not forget how such accusation against the constitutional Government of the Republic of Mexico be justified. True it is, certainly, that the Government dealt ruthlessly and without pity with the rebels but one must not forget how serious a menace such an upheaval constituted for the Mexican people at this time and what it meant for the progress already achieved in Mexico during the last years. Not to have crushed summarily and with utmost energy the attempts of these disturbers of the public peace would certainly have the same result as to have encouraged the many yet undecided military elements and to have thrown the country once more into turmoil and unending bloodshed. Then, too, considering the situation in case of a victory of the rebel forces: Certain it is that after such a victory a fight for the supremacy of one or the other rebel factions was bound to ensue and according to the same methods they had jointly used against the constitutional Government of General Calles. Under such circumstances, the President's manner of dealing with the rebellious elements was absolutely justified, such a momentary iron policy as he summoned for the purpose of eliminating once for all deliberate revolutionary plotting on the part of ambitious individuals to overthrow the constituted government of Mexico for selfish reasons being none too high a price to assure peace and the continued progress of the Mexican nation.

### Real Import of the Rebellion

Thinking of the real import of the rebellion in Mexico it is often and quite generally claimed that whoever controls the army controls the country. Events of the last half century proved this claim. It is not true of the Mexico of today. The recent attempted imbrolio, confirming once more the failure of the De la Huerta rebellion of 1923, showed clearly that the fractious leaders had greatly overestimated their position, importance and personal influence. They found only small followings. The great bulk of the Mexican federal army remained loyal to the Government, the best possible proof that even the military elements of Mexico have at last understood the real position of the army as keeper of the public peace, have understood that any kind of development and progress can be guaranteed only by peaceful methods and, we may say, have gone far on the road to understanding that the participation of the military in politics must inevitably result in disaster. The time is past in Mexico when military elements can make or desire to make revolutions. Revolutions are made only by the people and today the great masses of the Mexican people are zealously supporting the Calles Government, which has meant for them peace, progress and some beginnings of economic freedom.

To foreign governments dealing

with Mexico and discussing mutual problems with its Federal Government, the quick action of the Calles' government could be only in their interest, as only a stable and firmly established government such as that of President Calles can live up to its obligations and form a serious partner with whom to deal. President Calles' energetic policy has dealt a decisive blow to whatever reactionary elements as might still have cherished the hope of appealing to arms to turn back the wheels of time in Mexico.

Mexico today is absolutely in the hands of Calles. Everyone knows that no one can succeed today in Mexico in a reactionary policy in which even presidential candidates failed and paid with their lives. In all foreign countries, it must be understood that Mexico is marching decidedly toward democratic methods. Presidential elections in so far as regarding the people's choice between reactionary elements and methods and democracy (government by and for the many) is concerned have already taken place and have been decided in favor of the only candidate who was willing to trust his fate to the hands of the voters. In deciding against reaction and reactionary methods, the Mexican people have decided in favor of Obregon who as future president will maintain the policies of the Calles administration.

## Educational Season Starts This Saturday, November 19

"Justice" readers will notice the announcement on the educational page that the I.L.G.W.U. educational season begins Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m., with a lecture by David J. Saposs on the French Labor Movement. This will be given in the auditorium of the I. L. G. W. U. at 3 West 16th Street.

A. J. Muste, head of Brookwood Labor College, will start a course of ten lessons on "The Worker in Modern Civilization" on Saturday, November 26, 1:30 p.m., in the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street. These will be continued weekly.

Dr. N. Bryllion Fagin will give a course of four lectures on "American Contemporary Literature," beginning Sunday, November 27, 11 a.m., in the I. L. G. W. U. Building, 3 West 16th Street.

Dr. H. J. Carman will give a course on "The Rise of American Civilization," based on the book by Charles

and Mary Beard. The place and time will be announced later.

We are sure these lectures need no introduction. Our members have not forgotten how much they learned from A. J. Muste's courses several years ago, nor from Dr. Carman's courses on Social Factors in American History. Mr. Saposs' courses in labor problems are also remembered, although he has been away for some time. Dr. Fagin of the University of Baltimore is known to our Unity House guests where he lectured this summer.

Lectures and discussions in Yiddish will start within a few weeks. The exact time and place will be announced. We will also announce our Saturday night entertainments for our members and their families very shortly.

For further information apply at our Educational Department, 3 West 16th Street, either in person or by letter.

### LITHUANIAN WORKERS' APPEAL AGAINST TYRANNY

At a recent conference at Riga, the Lithuanian workers and refugees discussed the situation of their country under Fascist terror, and decided to issue the following appeal to workers and peasants and to all honest people who are opposed to oppression and murder:

"The Fascist dictatorship in Lithuania is a regime of the nobility and bourgeoisie against the Lithuanian Labor movement and its social reforms; against agrarian reform, social insurance, sickness insurance centres, educational institutions, etc.

"At the head of this regime is a committee of officers, which serves as a shield for the bloody government of the upstart rulers Smetona and Valdemaras. These usurpers have seized the government by force, have trodden the national legislation under foot, have dispersed the parliament, and have established a military dictatorship which is crushing the trade union, social, cultural and political movement of the Lithuanian working

class; it has destroyed all the trade unions and even the purely educational establishments of the workers, and has terrorized the press.

"To show how far the reaction goes, we may say that members of trade unions have been sent to concentration camps or thrown into prison for their conversations with Albert Thomas, the Director of the International Labor Office, or they have been forced to take refuge in flight. For ten months court martials have been busy scattering or murdering the most active leaders of the working class. Peaceful citizens are despatched by military commanders to concentration camps with the utmost arbitrariness; they are driven out of their houses, thrown into prison and dragged before court martials.

"The people are defenceless and can do nothing in the way of organized resistance. This is how it has come to pass that there were risings here and there, in Tauragen, Skaudvil, Erskvilk and Jurbark, which were all suppressed with great bloodshed. The referendum promised by the government is a mere mockery and fraud."

## The Week In Local 10

By SAM B. SHENKER

Some of the important features of the union's agenda during the past week were: a joint meeting of the Executive Boards of the Dressmakers' locals 19, 22, 25 and 39, held in the headquarters of the International, 3 West 16th Street, at which the problems of the dress industry and the plans of the union for the coming season were taken up and discussed; and the announcement of possible remedies of the evils confronting the cloak industry, such as a regulation of wages and limitation of contractors, which were made public in an article in the local trade paper in a interview with President Sigman.

An important feature of the local's activity are the preparations for a very large membership meeting, at which a vote on the question of proportional representation, the convention city for 1928 will be taken, and the nomination of officers will be made. The special meeting will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 28, at Arlington Hall.

### Activity in Cloak and Dress Trades

That the problems of the dress industry should be taken up jointly by the executive boards of the dress-making locals is no novelty in the history of our union. The joint meeting of the executive boards was the first of a series of meetings to be held in the next few weeks and will be followed by meetings of chairmen, chairladies and active members.

Julius Hochman, General Manager of the Joint Board, opened the meeting by briefly stating its object. The delegates, including delegates and officers from Local 10, took an active interest and frankly discussed the past and present problems of the dress industry. Towards the end of the meeting President Sigman gave his view of the situation.

No definite plans were adopted, except that a series of such meetings should be held. One thing above all

was emphasized, namely, that the coming season would be a ripe time to launch an intensive organization drive. What was pointed out to be a favorable condition for the union was the dress industry is growing very fast, particularly in New York City, and that many employers are beginning to feel sufficiently encouraged to take a stand in favor of the larger inside shop.

The two important topics which are being considered and discussed in and out of union circles, with regard to the cloak trade, are some method of wage regulation, and limitation of contractors. The present method regarding wages is such that it pits the worker of one shop against the worker of another shop. "The oft expressed belief by the employer that piece work would solve the problem is no solution," Sigman declared. "It would but tend to greater chaos were it introduced." of course, this question has yet to be worked out and discussed by the workers before any attempts are made with a view to introducing some form of wage regulation.

That a limitation of contractors would go far towards solving many of the evils in the garment industry, and would be the means of prevent-

ing further growth of the small shops, is not only an opinion held by the officers of the Union, but it is also expressed by the manager of one of the cloak associations. He frankly stated that the jobber ought to concentrate his work in fewer shops. It will be remembered that in the general cloak strike of 1925, this was one of the important demands of the Union. In the mad scramble to settle the strike at any cost, and to keep themselves in the saddle, this important point was dropped by the Communists. It is expected that joint conferences between the union and the employers will soon take place at which this question will be taken up.

### Panken Watchers Commended.

The gratitude of Judge Jacob Panken to the Executive Board of Local 10 and to Manager Dubinsky, was expressed in a letter sent out to other thirty members of Local 10 who acted as watchers in the campaign to re-elect Judge Jacob Panken as Justice of the Second Municipal District. That Judge Panken was not elected, the letter states, is no fault of the watchers, for, according to observers, especially Manager Dubinsky, who made the rounds of the various polling places, the Local 10 watchers made every effort to secure an honest vote and count. They were at their posts from early morning until late at night and fought every inch of ground all day long. The letter, which will be found below, was sent out to thirty men. It is possible that some who should have received it did not owing to an oversight. Those of the

men whose names are not printed and who failed to receive the letter should report to the office. The following are the men who served as watchers:

Jacob White, Louis Gordon, Harry Freedman, Morris Politchek, Louis Stollberg, Jacob Trager, Louis Pankin, Max Gordon, Nathan Saperstein, Jacob Kops, Nat Bloom, Morris Feller, Benny Erry, Kever Cohen, Louis Conroy, Moe Fallickman, Herman Binder, Morris Levine, Max Sandier, Isidore Reisman, Louis Gordon, Harry Cohen, Sam Levitt, Isidore Balter, Sol Korenman, Edward Kreger, Emanuel Greenberg, Joseph Ades, Elias Bass, John McEvoy, Joseph Pampinella, Max Polichek.

The letter sent to the watchers reads as follows:

"I wish to convey to you the gratitude of both the Executive Board and myself for responding to the call of Local 10, and volunteering your services as watchers in the recent campaign for the re-election of Judge Jacob Panken.

"Despite the results, your effort was very encouraging to Local 10, because of the loyal spirit displayed in your prompt response. I understand and appreciate the difficulties you were confronted with in your endeavor to secure an honest election for Judge Jacob Panken.

"I take this opportunity, therefore, to express the appreciation and thanks of Judge Jacob Panken, the Executive Board and myself, for the excellent service you so willingly rendered.

Fraternally yours,

(Signed) DAVID DUBINSKY,  
Manager.

### LOCAL 10 LOSES TWO VETERAN MEMBERS.

The cutters' organization lost last week two old and loyal members, both of whom joined the local in 1916, during the first great cloak strike.

David Sturrock, of 351 W. 24th Street, New York City, aged 53, died of pneumonia, after a short illness.

Edward Rutkin, of 212 W. 163rd St., age 55, died of heart failure at his home.

Peace to their memory.

## Special Miscellaneous Meeting

Monday, November 21, 1927

MEETING TAKES PLACE IN ARLINGTON HALL,  
23 ST. MARKS PLACE.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Nomination of Candidates for Executive Board.

Meeting begins at 7:30 P. M.

# Special Membership Meeting

Monday, November 28, 1927

### Special Order of Business:

- 1) Referendum on Proportional Representation.
- 2) Voting on 1928 Convention City.
- 3) Nominations for Candidates for Officers for 1928.

**Fifty Cents fine will be imposed upon members who fail to attend this Special Meeting,**

in accordance with the unanimous decision of the special meeting on Monday, October 31.

A SPECIAL CHECK WILL BE APPLIED FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF THIS MEETING as this special FINE OF FIFTY CENTS IS ASIDE FROM THE REGULAR FINE of one dollar for non-attendance. THEREFORE THE STAMPING of dues books for attendance WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

The entire membership is requested and urged to attend THIS VERY IMPORTANT MEETING, in order to participate in the discussion and voting on the question of proportional representation.

MEETING BEGINS AT 6 P. M. SHARP.